Claims

1.   (currently amended) A method of storing a collection of digital images on a storage medium,
comprising the steps of:

>   a)   inputting a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
>
>   b)   displaying, to a user, a the group of images for which corresponding image
>   files are available;
>
>   c)[[b)]]prompting the user to select a plurality of images from the group;
>
>   d)   receiving user input from the user by which the user selects one or more
>   images from the group;
>
>   e)[[c)]]prompting the user to save the selected images as an album of images;
>
>   f)[[d)]] receiving an instruction from the user to save the selected images to a storage
>   medium as an album of images;
>
>   g)[[e)]]making a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the selected
>   images to result in image file copies;
>
>   h)[[f)]] compressing the image file copies; and
>
>   i)[[g)]] saving, to the storage medium, the compressed image file copies that
>   correspond to the selected images.

2.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of making
a contact sheet image including a user-selected album title having a font and color selected by the
user, the contact sheet image further including representations of the images contained in the album.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of automatically
resizing the image file copies so that the selected images, when displayed, will have a resolution not
exceeding a resolution required for optimal viewing on a standard display.

4.   (previously presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

>   a)   automatically adjusting one or more of the image file copies to include one or
>   more modifications; and
>
>   b)   in the saving step, ensuring that the adjusted image file copies are saved as
>   compressed adjusted image file copies.

5.   (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of saving, to the storage medium, a file that contains parameters of the album, wherein the file allows a user to automatically recreate the image album for further duplication or modification.

6.   (currently amended) A computer-readable carrier containing instructions thereon that are capable of instructing a computing device to:

        a)   input a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;

        b)   display, to a user, the a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;

        c)[[b)]]prompt the user to select a plurality of images from the group;

        d)   receive user input from the user by which the user selects the plurality of images from the group;

        e)[[c)]]prompt the user to save one or more of the selected images as an album of images;

        f)[[d)]] receive an instruction from the user to save the one or more selected images to a storage medium as an album of images;

        g)[[e)]]make a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the one or more selected images to result in one or more image file copies;

        h)[[f)]] compress the one or more image file copies; and

        i)[[g)]] save, to the storage medium, the one or more compressed image file copies that correspond to the selected images.

7.   (previously presented) The carrier of claim 6, wherein the instructions are also capable of instructing the computing device to make a contact sheet image including an album title and representations of the one or more images contained in the album.

8.   (previously presented) The carrier of claim 6 wherein the instructions are also capable of instructing the computing device to automatically resize the one or more image file copies so that the one or more selected images, when displayed, will have a resolution not exceeding a resolution required for optimal viewing on a standard display.

9.   (previously presented) The carrier of claim 6, wherein the instructions are also capable of instructing a computing device to:

 a)   automatically adjust the one or more image file copies corresponding to the one or more selected images to include one or more modifications; and

 b)   in the saving step, ensure that the one or more image file are saved as compressed adjusted image file copies.

10.   (previously presented) The carrier of claim 6 wherein the instructions are also capable of instructing the computing device to save, to the storage medium, a file that contains parameters of the album, wherein the file allows a user to automatically recreate the image album for further duplication or modification.

11.   (currently amended) An apparatus for the creation of a digital photo album comprising:

 a)   means for inputting a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;

 b)   means for displaying, to a user, a the group of images for which corresponding image files are available;

 c)[[b)]] means for prompting the user to select a plurality of images from the group;

 d)   means for receiving user input from the user by which the user selects one or more images from the group;

 e)[[c)]] means for prompting the user to save the selected images as an album of images;

 f)[[d)]] means for receiving an instruction from the user to save the selected images to a storage medium as an album of images;

 g)[[e)]] means for making a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the selected images to result in image file copies;

 h)[[f)]] means for compressing the image file copies; and

 i)[[g)]] means for saving, to the storage medium, the compressed image file copies that correspond to the selected images.

12.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for making a contact sheet comprised of a user-selected album title having a font and color selected by the user and including representations of the images contained in the album.

13.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for automatically adjusting the image file copies so that the selected images, when retrieved from the storage medium, will display in resolutions appropriate for a standard television screen.

14.   (original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
   a)   means for prompting the user to make one or more modifications to any of the selected images;
   b)   means for automatically adjusting the image file copies corresponding to the selected images for which the user makes one or more modifications so that said image file copies result in adjusted image file copies that include the one or more modifications; and
   c)   means for ensuring that the image file copies that have resulted in adjusted image file copies are saved as adjusted image file copies.

15.   (original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising means for saving, to the storage medium, a link that allows a user to view the image files that are stored on the storage medium as an album of images.

16.   (withdrawn) A method comprising:
   a)   displaying on a computer monitor a group of images;
   b)   formatting a plurality of the images as an album of images;
   c)   converting image files corresponding to the images of the album to one or more video signals that are formatted to produce representations of the images on a video display device that is different from the computer monitor; and
   d)   transferring the video signals to the video display device.

17.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising formatting the album of images as an album for transfer from a first hardware device that formats the plurality of images as the album to a second hardware device that converts the image files to the one or more video signals.

18.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, further comprising compressing the image files before formatting the album as the album and decompressing the image files before converting the image files to one or more video signals .

19.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein formatting the album of images as the album comprises saving the album to a storage medium in the first hardware device for transport to the second hardware device.

20.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein formatting the plurality of images comprises eliminating information from the corresponding image files that exceeds an available resolution of the video display device.

21.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the video display device is a standard television and the one or more video signals are one or more television video signals.

22.   (withdrawn) A method comprising:
   a)   displaying to a user, on a first display device, a group of images;
   b)   prompting the user to select a plurality of the images from the group; and
   c)   automatically adjusting image files corresponding to selected images so that the selected images will display in a resolution appropriate for a second display device that is different from the first display device.

23.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the first display device is a computer monitor and the second display device is a standard television.

24.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, further comprising formatting the image files as an album for transfer to a hardware device that converts the image files to one or more television video signals for display on the second display device.

25.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 24, further comprising compressing the adjusted image files.

26.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein formatting the image files as an album comprises saving the album to a storage medium for transport to the hardware device.

27.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein automatically adjusting comprises cropping to eliminate information from the corresponding image files that exceeds the resolution appropriate for the second display device.

28.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein automatically adjusting comprises downsampling to eliminate information from the corresponding image files that exceeds the resolution appropriate for the second display device.

29.   (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system programmed thereby to perform a method comprising:

    a)   displaying to a user, on a computer monitor, a group of images;

    b)   prompting the user to select one or more of the images from the group; and

    c)   automatically eliminating information by downsampling, from one or more image files corresponding to one or more selected images, the one or more image files having a resolution that exceeds an available resolution of a standard television prior to the downsampling.

30.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, further comprising saving the one or more image files as an album on a storage medium.

31.   (withdrawn) The method of claim 29, further comprising formatting the one or more image files as an album.